**Death of children due to mysterious disease**

1669. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that during the last two months more than 100 children have died of some mysterious disease in Saharanpur and neighbouring areas in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have sent any expert team there to look into it and identify the virus that has struck there;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any financial assistance has been provided to the State Government to take effective measures to control the disease; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKHSMI): (a) to (f) Fever and deaths due to encephalitis in the districts of Saharanpur and Baghpat have been reported to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Govt, of India by the health authorities of Government of Uttar Pradesh.

In Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh, 159 cases amongst children including 114 deaths (as on 14th December, 2004) due to encephalitis were reported from 25th Sept. 2004.

In district Baghpat (Block Kshekra), 13 deaths were reported from 28th September to 23rd October, 2004. No death has been reported thereafter.

On the request of the State Govt, a multi-disciplinary Central Team comprising experts from Central Govt. Hopital, National Institute of Communicable Disease, National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, National Institute of Virology (Indian Council of Medical Research) investigated these cases in Saharanpur and Baghpat districts.

The clinical, epidemiological, entomological and serological investigations suggested that the outbreaks were due to acute viral encephalitis.

The primary responsibility of instituting medical care and public health measures vests with the State Govt. The Central Govt, extends technical support as and when required. Guidelines on public health measures have been sent to district and State health authorities by the Central Govt.

**Ayurvedic system of medicine in curriculum for abroad**

†1670. SHRIRUDRANARAYANPANY:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals have been received from developing countries to introduce ayurvedic system of medicine, naturopathy and yoga curriculum in those countries by India;

(b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise; and

(C) the details of the steps taken by Government to strengthen the Indian system of medicine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATIPANABAKALAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government have introduced a number of Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes to promote, develop and strengthen the Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy (ISM&H). The Schemes include financial support for development of ISM&H education institutions, hospitals and dispensaries, supply of essential drugs of Ayurveda, Siddha, Upani and Homoeopathy to dispensaries in rural arid backward areas, supply of medicinal kits, strengthening of State Drug testing laboratories and pharmacies, assistance to drug manufacturing units obtaining GMP certification, support to ISM&H industry for creation of quality control facilities etc.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.